Vol. III. Numb. 17.

THE OBSERVATOR.

n Plots against the Obſervator. *The Lords Addreſs to the Queen, relating to the Commiſſions of the Peace. Remarks thereon.*

From **Wednesday** May the 17th, to **Saturday** May the 20th, 1704.

untry-m. WELL, Maſter *Obſervator*, I would deſire you, by all means, to keep your ſelf ſafe; for the *Perkinites* Swear they'l ſend you a Soldier.

Obſ. Is not that over yet? Prithee, Man, my Education Intitles me to a better Employment than a Foot Soldier, and my Services to much better than ſome that have 'em. I tell thee, Honeſt *Country-man*, if the Queen will make me *General* but for one Campaign, if I don't bring the *French* to a Battle, I'll be hang'd at the Head of the Army before they go into Winter-Quarters; and 1000 Pound ſhall defray my Expence of the Campaign.

Country-m. You a *General!* Now you make me laugh: *Poiſe your Muſket! To the Right about, to Peſſer* Johnſon's *Pales, as you were the laſt time we Paſſer'd!* as ſaid our Noble Captain tother day. You a *General!* Defend me from Great Guns and Iron Dumplins.

Obſ. You may Banter, *Country-man*, as you pleaſe; but I fancy I have as *many marks of War on my Body*, as any of the Queens Generals, except my Lord *Cutts*, tho' I never Bragg'd of it: And for Conduct, perhaps I have as many Brains in my Head as ſome of 'em.

Country-m. Aye, there you have hit it. I believe you have Brains enough to ſtay at home, and not run the unjuſt Fortune of War, where a Man that has Brains is knock'd o'th' Head by one that has none. But, I'll aſſure you, this Recruit Act makes a ſad Buſtle.

Obſ. Prithee buy this Act, that I may ſee what it is, I can't judge before I have Read it.

Country-m. I'll tell you one Story, a Young Man in *Southwark* was taken up by a Conſtable, and the Juſtices not being Sitting, he was Committed to the *Marſhalſea* till they did Sit, which I think was four or five days after, and then he was cleared. Is not this a hard Caſe?

Obſ. That I don't know till I ſee the Act. I know a Conſtable has no Power to Commit but during his Regency of the Night, and the next Morning to go before a Juſtice; If there be no Clauſe in the Act to Impower the Conſtable to do ſo, the Gentleman has a good Action againſt the Conſtable.

Country-m. And if there be ſuch a Clauſe in the Act, there's a *Perkinite* Whim juſt come into my head. Suppoſe at the next Election for Members for that *Burrough*, three Juſtices of the Peace, or rather Mr. Conſtable, ſhould Commit to Priſon all Mr. *Coxe*'s, and Mr. *Cholmley*'s Friends during the Time of the Election, then you know who would come in, and we ſhould loſe too honeſt Parliament Men.

Obſ. There's no Danger of this; for before the Time of a New Parliament all that ſort of People will be out of Commiſſion of the Peace. To allay your Fears in this Point, I'll Read you the Addreſs, of our good Patriots, and truly Proteſtant Peers on this Subject.

We Your Majeſties moſt Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Aſſembled, having taken into our Conſideration the great Alterations that have been of late made in the Commiſſions of the Peace, do moſt humbly beg leave to lay before Your Majeſty, that it is our Opinion, That no Perſon that Refuſed to take the Oaths to the late King, is fit to be in the Commiſſion of the Peace under Her Majeſty: And we do further humbly Beſeech Your Majeſty, That you will be Graciouſly pleaſed to Order the Commiſſions of the Peace to be Reviewed, and to give Direction that no Perſon or Perſons be continued or put into the Commiſſion of the Peace, but Men of Quality and Eſtates, and of Known Affection to Your Majeſties Title and Government, and the Proteſtant Succeſſion, and the Church of England, *as they are both Eſtabliſhed by Law; And that Your Majeſty will be pleaſed to Order, that ſuch be Reſtor'd, who are ſo qualify'd, and have been turn'd out without juſt Cauſe.*

Country-m. God Bleſs our Noble Patriots the Peers; Here's their good Health with all my Spirit. Why had you not told me this good News before?

Obſ. Good News never comes too late: I can tell you more, when Time ſhall ſerve, of the good Offices done the Queen and Nation by that Noble Body; perhaps more than ever were enter'd in the Journals of Parliament in one Seſſions.

Country-m. But, Maſter *Obſervator*, let me Obſerve a lettle, if you pleaſe, from this Addreſs of our very good Lords.

1. I here find, That ſuch as did not take the Oaths to the late King are put into the Commiſſon of the Peace in this Queens Reign; and all ſuch as were *Non-jurors* in the late Reign, were *Perkinites* then, and are ſo now, *Ergo*, there are *Perkinites* in the Commiſſion of the Peace. God Bleſs their Lordſhips for Addreſſing the Queen to *Turn them out.*

2. I Obſerve, That ſome honeſt Gentlemen, who did take the Oaths in the late Reign, and were then in the Commiſſion of the Peace, are *turned out in this Reign.* God Bleſs their Lordſhips for Addreſſing the Queen to *Put them in again.*

3. I Obſerve, That it is their Lordſhips Opinion, and that Juſtly too, that no Perſon or Perſons be continued, or put into the Commiſſion of the Peace, but Men of Quality and Eſtates; and then what will become of thoſe that Live by their Commiſſions, and the Mechanick Quality that deal in *Album Græcum* and *Aſſa-Fœtida*, that make ſuch a Damn'd Stink of *Jacobitiſm* in their Neighbourhoods.

4. I Obſerve, 'Tis their Lordſhips Opinion, and that with the greateſt Reaſon, that none be in the Commiſſion of the Peace, but ſuch as are of known Affection to Her Majeſties *Title* and *Government*, and the *Proteſtant Succeſſion.* This will make a plaguy rot among the Juſtices in ſome Counties.

Obſ. Oh rare *Country-man!* Thou lt be able to turn *Obſervator* thy ſelf when I am ſent for a Foot Soldier.

Country-m. Yes, yes, you have got ſo much by

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it to Encourage me to take up your Trade, and ſo muſt be ſent for a Soldier too, muſt I? And then our *Joan* muſt Live a Crying by her ſelf.

Obſ. No, no, thou art too Old to go for a Soldier; Age, without doubt, is excuſed in the Act.

Country-m. 'Tis no matter for that, if Three Juſtices will ſend you, I tell you, an *Obſervator*, be he 150 Years Old, is Young enough to go for a Soldier; 'tis not the *Man*, 'tis the *Obſervator* they want to be rid of.

Obſ. If I go you ſhall go too: I'll tell 'em you are my Partner.

Country-m. I go; nay, I don't know where to go to get any Body to go to *London* with my Team; our *Tom* Swears he won't go off our own Land, for fear of being taken up as a *Vagabond* and ſo ſent away.

Obſ. I don't ſee but they may take him up for a *Vagabond* at Home, as well as the Conſtable did the Young Man in *Southwark*.

Country-m. Ay, ay, I know what: The Folk about *London* may make their Hay, and cut their Corn themſelves this Summer. I'll warrant 'em they'll have no *Welſhmen* come up this Seaſon. And the Country Fellows will ſtay at Home; they don't care to be ſent for Soldiers.

Obſ. So much the better; then the Young Wenches will have the more Employment; they may come up in their Room.

Country-m. Pray, Sir, how many poor Men do you think may Travel from the Countries to *London* in the Summer Seaſon to get Work.

Obſ. It may be about five or ſix hundred.

Country-m. And you would have as many Young Wenches come up in their Room, would you?

Obſ. Yes, I would.

Country-m. And then, perhaps, right or wrong, the Conſtables will Preſs them, and they'll return into the Country with Big-Bellies, and lay 5 or 600 Baſtards to the poor Country Pariſhes.

Obſ. Who, 20 years hence, may ſerve for Recruits.

Country-m. I wonder whether this Act does Impower the Folks to ſend Vagabond Parſons for Recruits.

Obſ. I tell thee Buy the Act, and then thou'lt know.

Country-m. I wiſh it may ſend Vagabond Parſons; we have a Power of 'em in *England*. I'll warrant it there's your Friend, the broad-Fac'd Cobler of *Glouceſter*, can ſpare at leaſt half a Score of his Chaplains into the Army; and thus we may be rid of *L——y*, and the *Scots-Non-Jurors*, who are Vagabonds both from *Church* and *State*.

Obſ. Their Gowns is a Protection.

Country-m. Let em put off their Gowns then; I tell you that Trade is overſtock'd, we han't half Livings enough in *England* for thoſe that are bred to the Pulpit. Let ſome of 'em go Abroad and Fight for the *Church* of *England*, while the *Benefic'd-Men* ſtay at Home and Pray for their Succeſs.

Obſ. With all my Heart; and let all ſuch as are Benefic'd and don't underſtand Latin go too, and then we ſhall be rid of our Old Friend Parſon *Smut*.

Country-m. Maſter *Obſervator*, there's another Plot againſt you.

Obſ. Prithee, Man, there's a Plot againſt the Queen and the whole Nation; is it any wonder then that there are Plots againſt me? The *High-Flyers* are now Plotting againſt every Honeſt Man in *England*. I'll tell you more of it the next time we meet.

Country-m. I fancy ſome ſort of People Plot againſt cauſe you endeavour to Countermine their Plots ag Queen and Nation.

Obſ. You are right enough; but that ſhan't hinder detecting their Deſigns, and from opening the Peop But, Prithee, what Plot is this?

Country-m. Why, Sir, 'tis a Plot preparatory to you and if they can't effect this Plot, I ſuppoſe you'll never b They Inſinuate into the Citizens of *London*, That you ha Written very Scandalouſly, Maliciouſly, and Treaſonabl don't know how many other Lies againſt Them, the Ci zens, and by this means they are minded to ſet your againſt you.

Obſ. This is likely enough; they'll leave no Stone unt ſuppreſs the Truth. I underſtand I ſhould have been P ted by Bill the laſt Seſſions, but that the *High-Flyers* like the Jury. Nay, they ſay, they don't like the two Sh becauſe they won't Pack Juries to find Innocent Men G

Country-m. Nay, I have heard 'em rail at the Lord May ſay *They were miſtaken in Him, he's a Whig, and Adminiſters according to Law, and the Cuſtoms of the City.*

Obſ. The Lord Mayor is *above their Malice*, and *out of th of their Envy*; and if he ſhould reſtrain *Farces* and *Inte* and the other *Sinful* and *Abominable Practices* at *Bartholomew* they'll ſay he's a *Presbyterian*. My Perſecutors and Tra are the Legitimate Children of *Aretine*, mention'd by Mr. in his *Rehearſal Tranſpos'd*, who, as I remember, had this In tion on his Tomb.

Here lies Aretine, *who, whilſt he Lived, ſpake Evil of all, e of God only, and for this he begs Excuſe, becauſe he did not know b*

Country-m. I fancy that Man was the Founder of the *High-*

Obſ. I tell thee, Honeſt *Country-man*, I am too well kno the City of *London*, as that theſe Malicious Reflections o Enemies can take place againſt me. I was born a Freem that Honourably City; and it can't be imagined that I ſh invade my own Birth-right. But, on the contrary, no one more Strenuouſly Vindicated the Liberties, the Honour State of that City than my ſelf. And, as to this Impudent and Scandal caſt upon me, I referr my Fellow Citizens to Books I have written ſince Her Majeſty's Acceſſion to the Thr all which Mr. *How* Printed, and may be every Day ſeen at Shop, at the *Seven-Stars* in *Talbot-Court* in *Grate-Church-St* As I hate all under-hand Dealings in relation to Governmen Friends, I do the ſame in Writings relating to the Publick; I do here Challenge all the *Printers*, *Publiſhers*, and *Booksellers England* to ſay, That ever I engaged them to conceal Me as Author of any one thing that I have Written. 'Tis far bene Me to have Re-courſe to mean Subterfuges, or to Sculk in Dark; nor need I any of theſe Artifices. The *Truth* fears not Light, and 'tis the Cauſe of *Truth* that I Vindicate; a Cauſe am always prepared to Maintain, and for which I hope could Dye, if God by his Providence ſhould call me to it.

I can call God to Witneſs, as alſo my own Conſcience, t I never had any Malice againſt any King or Queen of this Real and thoſe that can diſtinguiſh betwixt a King and his Miniſt will allow, That a Perſon may bear true Allegiance to his Prin and at the ſame time expoſe Male-Adminiſtration and the Co rupt Practices of Evil Miniſters; and what more have I done

Country-m. God Reward you for the good you have don and Preſerve you to do yet more good.

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